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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

EXAMINING GROUP 3679

July 28, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re\ Application of: Douglas R. Dole

Appln. No.: 10/734,040

Examiner: A. Dunwoody

Filed: December 10, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3679


For: FLEXIBLE PIPE COUPLING

Confirmation No. 9198

(Atty. Docket No. 26978 USA)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AF, P. O. Box 1450. Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 28, 2006.


Dawn M. Larsen

RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION

DATED JUNE 9, 2006

PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop AF
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated June 9, 2006, please amend the application as follows.

08/01/2006 CMEG1 00000009 10734040
01 FC1201

400.00 OP

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
DATED JUNE 9, 2006

Appln. No. 10/734,040



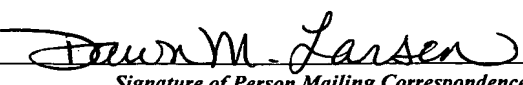
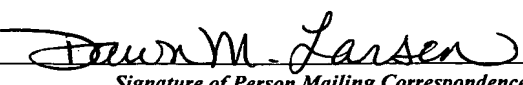
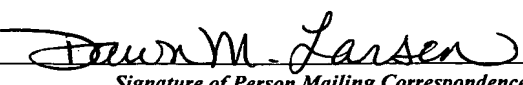
- 2 -

July 28, 2006

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

AP/ED #

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)					Docket No. 26978 USA									
Applicant(s): Dole														
Application No. 10/734,040	Filing Date Dec. 10, 2003	Examiner A. Dunwoody	Customer No. 23307	Group Art Unit 3679	Confirmation No. 9198									
Invention: FLEXIBLE PIPE COUPLING														
 <u>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>														
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.														
CLAIMS AS AMENDED														
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE									
TOTAL CLAIMS	14 -	20 =	0	x \$50.00	\$0.00									
INDEP. CLAIMS	5 -	3 =	2	x \$200.00	\$400.00									
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00									
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$400.00									
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account <input type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038.														
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.														
 _____ Signature			Dated: July 28, 2006											
John A. Chionchio, Reg. No. 40,954 Synnestvedt & Lechner LLP 1101 Market Street, Suite 2600 Philadelphia, PA 19107-2950 Telephone: 215-923-4466 Facsimile: 215-923-2189			<table border="1" style="width:100%"><tr><td colspan="2">I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on July 28, 2006 (Date)</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"> Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align:center">Dawn M. Larsen</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align:center">Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</td></tr></table>				I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on July 28, 2006 (Date)		 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence		Dawn M. Larsen		Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence	
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cc:														